Lester Callaway Hunt

LATE A SENATOR FROM
WYOMING

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Memorial Services

HELD IN THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
OF THE UNITED STATES, TOGETHER WITH
REMARKS PRESENTED IN EULOGY OF

Lester Callaway Hunt

LATE A SENATOR FROM
WYOMING

U.S.

Eighty-third Congress
Second Session

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Contents

	Page
Biography	5
Proceedings in the Senate:	
Prayer by the Chaplain, Rev. Frederick Brown Harris, D. D.	9
Appointment of Members to attend funeral	10
Editorial tribute, submitted by Mr. Earle C. Clements, of Kentucky	11
Memorial addresses by—	
Mr. Frank A. Barrett, of Wyoming	13
Mr. Lyndon B. Johnson, of Texas	14
Mr. Styles Bridges, of New Hampshire	15
Mr. Edward Martin, of Pennsylvania	16
Mr. Herbert H. Lehman, of New York	17
Mr. H. Alexander Smith, of New Jersey	18
Mr. Leverett Saltonstall, of Massachusetts	19
Mr. Herman Welker, of Idaho	20
Mr. J. Allen Frear, Jr., of Delaware	21
Mr. John W. Bricker, of Ohio	21
Mr. Spessard L. Holland, of Florida	22
Mr. John C. Stennis, of Mississippi	22
Mr. Edwin C. Johnson, of Colorado	24
Mr. Robert C. Hendrickson, of New Jersey	26
Mr. Harry Flood Byrd, of Virginia	28
Mr. A. S. Mike Monroney, of Oklahoma	28
Mr. Frank Carlson, of Kansas	30
Mr. Francis Case, of South Dakota	31
Mr. William F. Knowland, of California	32
Mr. Earle C. Clements, of Kentucky	33
Mr. Estes Kefauver, of Tennessee	34
Mr. Arthur V. Watkins, of Utah	35
Proceedings in the House:	
Prayer by the Chaplain, Rev. Bernard Braskamp, D. D.	39
Remarks by Mr. Sam Rayburn, of Texas	40
Appointment of Members to attend funeral	41
Memorial tributes:	
Editorial submitted by Mr. Edwin C. Johnson, of Colorado	45
Mr. Estes Kefauver, of Tennessee	47

Biography

LESTER CALLAWAY HUNT was born in Isabel, Edgar County, Ill., July 8, 1892; attended the public schools; student at Wesleyan University, Bloomington, Ill., in 1912 and 1913; was graduated from the St. Louis University College of Dentistry in 1917; moved to Wyoming in 1917 and commenced the practice of dentistry in Lander; during the First World War served as a lieutenant, captain, and major in the United States Army Dental Corps 1917–19; after postgraduate study at Northwestern University in 1920 resumed the practice of dentistry in Lander, Wyo.; president of the Wyoming State Board of Dental Examiners 1924–28; served in the State house of representatives in 1933 and 1934; secretary of state of Wyoming 1935–43; Governor of Wyoming 1943–49; chairman of the Governors' Conference held in Portsmouth, N. H., in June 1948; elected as a Democrat to the United States Senate in 1948, for the term commencing January 3, 1949, and served until his death in Washington, D. C., June 19, 1954; interment in Beth El Cemetery, Cheyenne, Wyo.

Memorial Services
for
Lester Callaway Hunt

Eighty-third Congress
Second Session

Proceedings in the Senate

MONDAY, *June 21, 1954.*

The Chaplain, Rev. Frederick Brown Harris, D. D., offered the following prayer:

Eternal spirit, who hast set eternity in our souls, Thou art the law within our minds, the life of every breath we draw, the love that never forgets, and the life that never ends.

At the beginning of another week, as we come to this daily altar of Thy grace, it is ours again to deeply mourn the passing from this sphere of action of an honored Member of this body. We are vividly conscious that across the busy months of this session grim death has been no infrequent visitor to this Chamber where the few deliberate for the many. Our hearts are comforted by the assurance that when to us, from our little, finite point of view, where is naught but the encircling gloom, the darkness and the light are both alike to Thee, and Thou seest what is in the darkness. Our mortal bodies are harps of a thousand strings, and die if one is gone. Strange that a harp of a thousand strings should keep in tune so long. But we are grateful that discordant notes that mar the music here are subdued again into the perfect harmony of the deathless life when this mortal puts on immortality.

We are thinking gratefully today, in this place where he came to the acme of his service, for all the able and devoted contributions made by our departed colleague to his profession and to his State and to his country.

May the benedictions of Thy sustaining grace rest upon his stricken companion and the children who sit today in the bowed circle of grief. And, at last, bring us all to the homeland of Thy eternal love. We ask in the name of that One who is the resurrection and the life. Amen.

Mr. BARRETT. Mr. President, it is my sad duty to advise the Senate of the untimely death, on Saturday last, of my colleague, the senior Senator from Wyoming, Mr. HUNT.

I offer the resolutions, which I send to the desk, and for which I request immediate consideration.

The VICE PRESIDENT. The resolutions will be read.

The resolutions (S. Res. 263) were read, considered by unanimous consent, and unanimously agreed to, as follows:

Resolved, That the Senate has heard with profound sorrow and deep regret the announcement of the death of Hon. LESTER C. HUNT, late a Senator from the State of Wyoming.

Resolved, That the President of the Senate appoint a committee, of which he shall be a member, to attend the funeral of the deceased Senator.

Resolved, That the Secretary communicate these resolutions to the House of Representatives and transmit a copy thereof to the family of the deceased.

The VICE PRESIDENT, under the second resolving clause, appointed the following Senators to constitute, together with the Vice President, the committee on the part of the Senate to attend the funeral of the deceased Senator: Mr. Barrett, Mr. Johnson of Colorado, Mr. Saltonstall, Mr. Flanders, Mr. Malone, Mr. Stennis, Mr. Anderson, Mr. Kefauver, Mr. Kerr, Mr. Johnson of Texas, Mr. Clements, Mr. Hennings, Mr. Monroney, Mr. Mansfield, and Mr. Symington.

Mr. KNOWLAND. Mr. President, as a further mark of respect to the memory of the deceased Senator, I move that the Senate do now adjourn.

The motion was unanimously agreed to; and (at 12 o'clock and 11 minutes p. m.) the Senate adjourned until tomorrow, Tuesday, June 22, 1954, at 12 o'clock meridian.

WEDNESDAY, *June 30, 1954.*

Mr. CLEMENTS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to have inserted in the body of the Record a very fine article about our late friend, Senator LESTER C. HUNT, written by Hon. Tracy S. McCraken, which appeared in his column in the Wyoming Eagle, of Cheyenne, Wyo., on June 25, 1954.

There being no objection, the article was ordered to be printed in the Record, as follows:

ABOUT PEOPLE AND THINGS

(By Tracy S. McCraken)

LESTER C. HUNT

While editorially and in another column the Wyoming Eagle has already paid tribute to Senator LESTER C. HUNT, so close and good a friend of ours was he that we would consider ourself as having been unworthy of his friendship were we not today to use this, our personal column, for the same purpose.

When the press associations asked us for a statement concerning the Senator we prefaced it by stating he was not only a great Senator and Governor, he was a great person. For the purposes of this column we're going to change it to read "* * * he was a great guy." For in its evolution the word guy instead of any longer being one primary of slangish connotation now is generally used to imply fondness and affection. So it is that in our book he was a great guy.

If ever we've seen a natural politician it was he. And let us parenthetically add we're among those who believe that politics is as noble a profession as it is a necessary one. Like in any other field, in politics there are the good and there are the bad. Doc HUNT stood high among the good.

It must be the Senator was just born a campaigner. He had everything it took to be the best in anybody's league. Wyoming has never seen his superior, if, indeed, his equal. We've watched him for years and it always seemed so easy for him. We're sure it was. It was, because he just plain liked people. He was gregariousness at its best and finest. So, liking people, he liked to be with them. And he was with them every moment he could be, once

Congress had adjourned and he could get back to Wyoming. Thus, if we may indulge in a bit of paraphrasing, his fences were never down.

It is said of the Senator that the morning after election he would start campaigning for the next. We never agreed with that. Both times he was elected Governor and the one time he was elected Senator we were with him on election night. By midevening it was usually known his election was assured. It was the moment his election was assured, not next morning, he started campaigning for the next time. Politics was his life's work, and not even momentarily did he ever shrink from his work.

Yet, as with a businessman, it takes more than just affability and more, too, than even the wonderful personality, including that ever-present, gracious, and winning smile he possessed, to make an outstandingly successful politician. And he had what it takes in other respects, too.

It takes diligence, long, long hours of it, not just in campaigning, as has been referred to above, but in the discharge of his official duties. There lived no more tireless worker. It takes boundless devotion to duty and to those for whom one works—in his case the people of his State and the people of the Nation. He had that devotion, in a measure which few have.

It takes ability. On Monday of this week the Washington Post (Republican) said: "LESTER C. HUNT was one of the most conscientious and able men on Capitol Hill." The Post went on to tell of his "most conspicuous work" as a member of the Armed Services Committee. Which was no surprise to Wyoming. As a member of the legislature, as secretary of state, as governor and as Senator, not even his political adversaries questioned his ability and efficiency.

Doc was as interesting a fellow as he was likable. He was great good company. He was the kind who helped make any party. Not only did he lend much to conversation, but he was fun. In this connection, he never in his life tasted liquor. Yet, at a cocktail party he'd take a glass of tomato juice, hold it in his hand indefinitely and have a wonderful time. And at his own home, while of course his own liquid diet was confined to a soft drink, he served others what they wanted. It was typical of the man's breadth and of his feeling that others have the full right he did to govern themselves in this as in all matters.

In the past decade few have attended more football and basketball games at the State university than he. He was a rabid Wyoming fan, joyous in the school's victories and distressed in its defeats. This writer is in position to say that he is one of the

big reasons why Wyoming athletics are now on such a high standard. And we know whereof we speak when we add that both academically from the point of view of its present great physical plant, the University of Wyoming is infinitely the better for his having been governor.

Endlessly we could go on. But surely we must not fail to add that those of us who knew him best regarded as perhaps his crowning virtue his surpassing love for and devotion to his family. Yet in so saying we would also be inexcusably remiss were we not also to say that certainly to no less an extent is Mrs. Hunt the possessor of the same beautiful qualities. A more attractive, gracious, thoughtful, intelligent, and lovely person never lived. And, as we learned anew this week, she's a stoic through and through. High must be her place in the chosen ranks of God's noblewomen.

Concluding let us rerefer to our high appraisal of Senator HUNT, this that we may add that we deem it not at all incompatible with his unfortunate end. When one really understands the colossal, the tortuous, the staggering, the crushing burdens, both mental and physical, that came down upon him in avalanche proportions the past months one then understands how, bewildered and tormented of mind, he was overwhelmed with a craving for peace. And as sure as we're writing these words, just that sure are we that the good Lord, our all-understanding Lord, understands that too—and that He has now given to LES HUNT the peace that the fine life he lived so richly merits.

TUESDAY, *November 9, 1954.*

Mr. BARRETT. Mr. President, we were deeply shocked at the news of the untimely death of the late distinguished senior Senator from Wyoming.

LESTER C. HUNT had an unbroken line of outstanding public service to the people of Wyoming since 1932. He first served in the State legislature as a member of the house of representatives from Fremont County, Wyo. He was first elected secretary of state, the second highest office in our State, in 1934, and was reelected in 1938. The people of my State accorded LESTER C. HUNT the high honor of electing him governor in 1942 and of reelecting him in 1946. During his second term as governor he was chosen chairman

of the governors' conference by his fellow governors of the other 47 States. About the middle of his second term as governor the people elected him to the United States Senate in the fall of 1948.

He did his full part to promote the growth and development of our State and the welfare of our people. While secretary of state, Senator HUNT conceived the idea of placing a bucking horse on Wyoming's automobile tags. The idea attracted widespread attention and became extremely popular.

LESTER C. HUNT was by no means a strict partisan, and by the same token he was accorded support from many of different political faith. It can truthfully be said of Senator HUNT that he served his State and his country faithfully and well.

Mr. JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. President, I can think of few events which cast a greater pall of gloom over the Senate than the untimely and tragic passing of our beloved colleague, LESTER HUNT.

LESTER HUNT was one of God's kindly men. His life was dedicated to the principles of decency and humanity that find their noblest expression in the healing arts, of which he was a practitioner.

My own association with LESTER HUNT was very close. We entered the Senate at the same time. We served together on the Senate Committees on Armed Services and Interstate and Foreign Commerce. He was one of the most faithful members of the Senate Preparedness Subcommittee during the period when I was chairman.

During all that time, I never heard LESTER HUNT utter a mean word, an uncharitable word, an ungenerous word, about any of his fellow men. He was too big of soul and too kindly of heart to enter into sordid squabbles over personalities.

LESTER HUNT always approached issues on their merits. He had the capacity to judge a measure solely in the light of

service to the Nation, and he exercised that capacity upon every occasion.

It can truly be said of him that he looked upon public office as an obligation to service for his fellow man. He thought of legislation in terms of people and how it would affect their daily lives, and from the depths of his generous soul, he strove mightily to make their daily lives better and finer.

I was in his native State just a few weeks ago. On every hand, I met people who had known and loved LESTER HUNT. I talked to his friends and his neighbors—to those who had known him all their lives. Their comments were all the same: "A fine man—a decent man. We are the richer because he lived among us and worked for us. We are the poorer for his passing."

LESTER HUNT had a deep understanding and an abiding love for the great West, in which he spent most of his life. He brought to the problems of that vast stretch of our Nation, leadership and ability that won for him an enduring place among his people.

In the long view, men are measured by their service to humanity. And by that standard, when the final reckoning is made, LESTER HUNT will stand head and shoulders above the lesser mortals.

Mr. BRIDGES. Mr. President, I wish to pay a tribute to the distinguished late Senator LESTER HUNT, of Wyoming. I first knew LESTER HUNT in 1948, when I had the privilege of meeting and really becoming acquainted with him. I do not recall an occasion when he was too busy to be courteous and affable.

Emerson wrote at one time that "Life is not so short but that there is always time for courtesy"; and that was a philosophy which LESTER HUNT followed.

It was just 6 years ago, or a little over, when our late colleague, the then Governor of Wyoming, presided over the governors' conference in my State of New Hampshire. He

was a very welcome visitor to our State, and many of the people who had the privilege of meeting him on that occasion formed a very high opinion of him. A year later he was elected to the United States Senate. His background had prepared him for his great responsibilities as a Senator, as he thoroughly understood the problems which had been debated on the floor of the United States Senate.

During World War I he served his country in Army Dental Corps. Following the war he was elected a member of the State legislature. Later he served as secretary of state, and then governor.

LESTER HUNT justifiably received many honors during his life. In 1951, he was honored by the members of his profession by being named "Dentist of the Year." I had the pleasure of serving with him on the Armed Services Committee for several years, and I have personal knowledge of the outstanding contributions which he made as a member of that committee. He also served with distinction as an ex officio member of the Appropriations Committee and as a member of the Interstate and Foreign Commerce Committee.

Today I join with my colleagues who have paid tribute to this man who had demonstrated the best qualities that should characterize an American. He was loyal and true, and he served his State and Nation well.

Mr. MARTIN. Mr. President, all of us in this Chamber were deeply bereaved by the tragic passing of our beloved colleague, LESTER HUNT.

We suffered the loss of a good friend and a great American whose whole career was one of distinguished service to his country and his fellow man.

My own association with Senator HUNT goes back to the time when we both served as governors of our respective States.

During the meetings of the governors' conference and on other occasions I had many opportunities to observe and to admire his splendid qualities and his outstanding ability.

I learned to value his sound judgment and wise counsel because they were based on the finest American ideals and the highest standards of public service.

When he came to the United States Senate in 1948, I counted it one of my great privileges to continue my association with Senator HUNT.

The high honors that were conferred upon him by the people of Wyoming and by the members of his profession were earned by hard work and unselfish devotion to duty.

Senator HUNT was a sincere patriot. He served his country as a soldier in World War I and maintained his interest in military affairs as a major in the Army Reserve.

As a member of the Armed Services Committee of the Senate he applied to the problems of national defense the benefit of his experience and his deep interest in military affairs.

LESTER HUNT was a great and good man. To the members of his family I extend my deepest sympathy.

Mr. LEHMAN. Mr. President, on June 19 there passed from our midst, under tragic circumstances, a beloved and highly respected Member of this body. No man was better liked or more highly respected than LESTER HUNT. I had the privilege of sitting next to him in the Senate for several years, which gave me the opportunity to know him well. I formed a great affection and high regard for his ability, loyalty, and devotion.

No Member of this body was more devoted to the performance of his duties than was LESTER HUNT. He was firm when firmness was necessary. He was courageous when many others showed timidity. He was loyal to his friends and tolerant of their views, even when those views differed from his own. He avoided a narrow or regional approach to the problems which confront the Congress. He invariably considered the interests not only of his own State but of the Nation as a whole. I always had the feeling that he was just as much concerned with the problems and the welfare of

New York State as he was with those of his own State of Wyoming.

LESTER HUNT was always friendly and always humane and always just. He was without bias of any kind. I never heard him say an unkind word about anyone. I never heard him express a feeling of superiority over those who were less fortunately situated than he was. He strove for equal rights and equal opportunity for all regardless of race, creed, color, or national origin.

I can sum up my estimate of LESTER HUNT best by saying that he was a thoroughly good man. His passing was a loss not only to his loving family and his many friends but to the Nation, and all of its people. We in the Senate have lost a great associate and a beloved friend.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. President, I desire to join in paying tribute to the late Senator LESTER C. HUNT, of Wyoming.

Senator HUNT was with us only a short time, but all of us were sorely distressed on the occasion of his passing. I did not have the privilege of knowing him well, because I did not serve on any committee with him, but in my contacts with him I felt a warmth of friendship and a deep sense of responsibility in the performance of his duties as a Member of this body.

Senator HUNT had a distinguished career. In referring to his biography I find that he was a graduate of St. Louis University, College of Dentistry, and that he had an LL. D. degree from the University of Wyoming. He joined the United States Army and served as a lieutenant until his discharge in 1919. He held the rank of major in the Reserve Corps.

In 1932 he was elected to the Wyoming House of Representatives. He was secretary of state of Wyoming from 1935 to 1942. He was Governor of Wyoming in 1942 and was reelected in 1946. As has been previously pointed out by other Members of the Senate, Senator HUNT was chair-

man of the governors' conference of June 1948 and was elected to the Senate that same year. He was for a long time a leader in various medical and dental societies. I appreciate particularly his service in that connection because I am the son of a physician and I know the dedication and consecration of the members of the medical profession to their lifework of helping others.

Mrs. Smith joins me in expressing our deep sympathy to his wife and their two children.

Mr. SALTONSTALL. Mr. President, I should like to say a few words in tribute to my friend, the late Senator from Wyoming, LESTER HUNT. I first made his acquaintance when he was Governor of his State and I was Governor of Massachusetts and we met at the conferences of governors. LESTER HUNT never forgot that he owed his State and the people of his State an obligation to serve them, and he served them faithfully and well.

I recall very well, when we met at a chamber of commerce meeting at Cody, Wyo., his pride in the men who came from his State and his pride in what they had done.

When we flew over Wyoming he pointed out to me with enthusiasm the improvements which had been accomplished during his term as Governor and as a result of his efforts in the United States Senate.

I served with him on the Committee on Armed Services during the whole period he was assigned to that committee. He always stood for the soldier and always favored measures designed to better the conditions of the soldier.

LESTER HUNT was a distinguished member of the dental profession, and I believe he was the only Member of the Senate who had ever practiced that profession. He helped not only the dentists but the medical profession as a whole in solving the problems that faced them, particularly in the case of those who were drafted into the armed services.

I accompanied him on a trip to Alaska when he was chairman of a subcommittee. He was always courteous and always

friendly—a characteristic which was strikingly evidenced in his contacts with the people of Alaska on that trip. He showed his desire to be helpful to them.

I liked him and I liked his wife. He and I took several trips together to the Naval Academy at Annapolis, and, as I have said, we both participated in governors' conferences. So I learned to know him well and to admire him.

We shall miss him in the Senate. I have never known any man who was more courteous and more friendly, or one who had a greater understanding of the problems that faced the people of his State and of his Nation than LESTER HUNT.

Mr. WELKER. Mr. President, indeed this is a dark day, a solemn day, in the history of our country, and especially in the history of the United States Senate, when this body stands in silence and pays tribute to Senators who have gone before us during the last session, men with whom we have worked side by side. Life has its sunshine, it has its happiness and pleasures, and it has its pains. Today every Senator—yes, all of America—is saddened by the loss of these fine public servants.

First, let me pay brief tribute to a Senator from my neighboring State of Wyoming, the first of the three Senators whom we are commemorating today, Senator LESTER C. HUNT. Senator HUNT was truly emblematic of all that was good in America. He was a man who worked his way from the bottom to the top. He started out as an athlete. Then he became a leader in the dental profession, not only in the State of Wyoming, but throughout the world.

Coming as I do from a neighboring State of the late Senator HUNT, I think I can say that the greatest work he did prior to coming to this great body was in the field of education in the State of Wyoming. I believe that the distinguished senior Senator from Wyoming [Mr. Barrett] will agree with me that Senator LESTER HUNT, practically singlehandedly, was responsible for the development of the great institution of learning, known as the University of Wyoming. Every

person connected with that fine university is familiar with the efforts which Senator HUNT devoted to building up that fine school of higher learning, which ranks with the very best.

It was my pleasure to have served with Senator HUNT on the District of Columbia Committee when that committee investigated the Washington, D. C., police force, an institution which certainly needed investigation at that time.

In closing, Mr. President, I should like to say, with respect to the late Senator HUNT, that had he lived, I venture to say he could have been the senior Senator from Wyoming as long as he lived, or as long as he desired. The State of Idaho sends its condolences and expresses its sorrow and heartfelt sympathy to the widow and the family of the late Senator HUNT, and mourns the loss of this great public servant.

Mr. FREAR. Mr. President, the late Senator from Wyoming and I came to the Senate together in 1949. Our offices were across the hall from each other, and it was only natural that we should become good friends.

Senator HUNT and I served together on the District of Columbia Committee, and I hold many fond recollections of our association there.

The people of his great State who chose him both as their Governor and then as their Senator are, I know, proud of the long and diligent years of public service which he rendered in their behalf.

It is our common loss, Mr. President, that he was not able to carry on these fruitful endeavors for many additional years.

Mr. BRICKER. Mr. President, I had the privilege and pleasure of knowing Senator HUNT before he and I came to this body, for we had served in similar capacities as Governors of our respective States.

Senator HUNT was a man of vast experience. He was a true patriot; he was a constructive Member of this body.

Mr. President, as I rise today to pay tribute to Senator HUNT and to the three other distinguished Members of this body, my close personal friends, who have passed on in the last few months, I wish to state that all of them will be sorely missed, not only by their friends here, but by the entire country, because of their fine, constructive contributions to the welfare of the Nation to which all of us are devoted. They were true to the oaths they took; they kept the faith. They served that others might have the good way of life they had enjoyed.

Mr. President, today we mourn their passing. We sympathize with those who are close and dear to them. May we be guided by the spirit in which they lived.

Mr. HOLLAND. Mr. President, I join in the words of affection and tribute which have been uttered here today relative to the untimely passing of the late Senator from Wyoming, LESTER HUNT. My own acquaintance and warm friendship with LESTER HUNT began when we were serving as Governors of our respective States. I remember that at that time he was the only member of his political faith, and mine, who by election of the people of Wyoming was serving them in the statehouse. That fact clearly attests to the popularity of the good and kind man who was so greatly honored by his people throughout so many years. His service here was courageous; it was industrious; it was capable. He has left a great void in the Senate, and I am sure that all Senators join me in speaking words of sympathy and of affectionate regard to his wife and his children.

Mr. STENNIS. Mr. President, I served on a committee with our late friend Senator HUNT from the great State of Wyoming. It was my privilege to sit next to him on the Armed Services Committee for 4 years, and I had almost daily contact with his very fine mind and the great principles by which he lived and to which he was loyal regardless of what might happen. One of his characteristics was imme-

diately to go to the merits of whatever problem confronted him or whatever question he had to decide. His mind went immediately to the basic elemental principles, and he considered them strictly on the merits in trying to find the correct answer. When he thought he had found that answer, he stood firmly by his convictions.

Although he was a devoted adherent of the political party of which he was a member, his vision embraced the great area of the country from which he came and also the Nation as a whole.

The first consideration and the ultimate decision, with LESTER HUNT, were based strictly upon the merits, because he considered public office and public trust not to be used for private benefit, but for the public welfare and for the soundness of rightful government. I do not think I ever saw a greater number of fine qualities combined in one man. He had honor, truth, and great understanding; he had a desire to serve his State and Nation which was controlling, even overwhelming his desire to serve his great profession, the very finest traditions and ideals which he represented. But his great desire to serve took him into the rough and tumble of the political arena, seeking not something for self, but avenues of service, which were his guides.

I had the pleasure of knowing Senator and Mrs. Hunt in a social way. If I may say so, I have never seen a better example of the utmost devotion and understanding as between huband and wife, she living up in every way to every fine quality of womanhood, and being a most wonderful wife and mother.

I had the pleasure of accompanying them on a short trip 2 short years ago. I believe they were as fine and as happy a couple as I have ever seen.

I attended the funeral of Senator HUNT. Of course, there were flowers and other tributes. But there was something which impressed me more. During the short time I was

in Wyoming, I took advantage of the occasion to go into the country and visit briefly in the small towns and villages. I went to the home of the great university of that State. I talked with elevator operators, garage mechanics, and other people on the streets of the towns and cities which I visited. Some of them would bring up the subject themselves, detecting that I was a member of the senatorial party. They would invariably say, in substance, "We have lost a friend," or " I have lost a friend in the passing of Doc HUNT," using that title as a term of affection, because many of them first knew Senator HUNT by that title.

I think that, after all, in public service, the finest test is: What do the people think? When we have gone the route which is laid out for all of us to travel, the supreme test is whether or not the people feel a loss; whether or not they have a feeling that there was something basically constructive about us. By this standard, LESTER HUNT is deserving of the very finest tribute.

I have abiding faith that the God whom he served so faithfully over the years affords a lasting resting place for his great soul.

Mr. JOHNSON of Colorado. Mr. President, I desire to associate myself with the heartfelt tributes which have been paid to our departed colleagues, and especially with the warm address which has just been delivered by my colleague, the distinguished junior Senator from Mississippi [Mr. Stennis].

LESTER HUNT was a warm-hearted friendly soul. In his beloved Wyoming he respected and loved everyone, and everyone loved and respected him. Politics to him, as was his religion, was based on warm friendship, courtesy, kindness, gentleness, and good will toward all men. He was ill prepared for the cruel, brutal, rough aspect of national partisan politics. He thought evil of no one, and his gentle nature was shocked into panic, that persons whom he liked and

respected would destroy him in the cause of national partisan politics, when he was wholly without guilt.

Perhaps his devoted friends in the Senate took too much for granted—his capacity to accept barbaric treatment. Perhaps we should have done more to make him understand our complete confidence in respect for and devotion to him. In our busy life in the Senate, we little realize the burden some of our colleagues carry in their hearts. That is one of the penalties of a life filled with endless responsibilities and pressing duties.

LESTER HUNT in his quiet persistent way was a very effective worker in the Senate. When I was chairman of the Interstate and Foreign Commerce Committee, he was my good right hand. Every task assigned him was handled in the public interest with courage, devotion, and undivided attention. He never complained about too much work or the onerous nature of the task assigned him. He applied himself to it quietly and effectively and got the job done correctly and without delay. I mention these details because it best describes the type of senatorial services he rendered.

In Senate hearings he was always courteous and reassuring to witnesses but his discerning, penetrating, thought-provoking, and pointed questions disclosed his own clear understanding of the matter at issue. All of us were impressed with the cleanness of his thinking, his sympathy for those in trouble of any kind, his understanding and quick grasp of involved problems, and at the same moment his humility and sweetness.

LESTER HUNT was the kind of agreeable person with whom one would like to go fishing. His big smile, happy chuckle, and naturally pleasant and captivating personality made one feel very close to him.

LESTER HUNT was a topflight Senator, a really nice person, a good family and church man, and a true patriot. To have such a lovable person die of a broken heart in our midst is indeed a tragedy.

Mr. HENDRICKSON. Mr. President, since the day in January 1949, when LESTER HUNT and I were sworn in together as freshmen Senators, I have learned much about the qualities of the man—his quiet courtesy, his friendliness, his kindly sense of humor, his dedication to the cause of public service.

I knew him as a fellow member of the Armed Services Committee of the Senate where we worked together on several subcommittees. As a member of the committee, he was particularly diligent with regard to his membership and attendance. He was present at practically every meeting of the committee. His concern was with the whole job of being a Senator and he went to great pains to familiarize himself with the issues of any particular problem before it was brought up in the committee or discussed on the floor of the Senate so that he would be well informed.

The life of LESTER C. HUNT is to my mind a great story of the vital half century in which he lived. I am told that he first saw the State which was to send him to the Senate when, as a 19-year-old Illinois boy, he pitched a no-hit game which led to his engagement by the professional baseball team in Lander, Wyo. He decided then that this State would be his home.

He served his country in World War I in the Army Dental Corps, being stationed at about 12 camps and bases in this country between September 1917 and May 1919. Shortly after being discharged as a major, he entered Northwestern University for postgraduate study of dentistry and on completing his course in 1920, he returned to Lander to resume his dental practice there.

He began his public career in his hometown as a scoutmaster, as a member of the school board, and as the president of the Fremont County Medical and Dental Society.

He served his State as a member of the legislature, as its secretary of state, and then as its Governor from 1943 to 1948. With typical modesty, Senator HUNT claimed that his great-

est accomplishment as governor was having originated the "bucking bronco" used on Wyoming license plates, but we are all aware of the fact that he made a great record as governor as well.

He was prominent in the Governors' Conference at Mackinac Island, Mich., in 1945, where he urged that small business "should have the first opportunity to reconvert and that it be assured of adequate materials." Three years later, he presided over the governors' conference in Portsmouth, N. H., and in 1949 he was elected to the Senate.

In the Senate he was active in District affairs, served on the Senate Crime Investigating Committee, and was a longtime advocate of measures looking toward world peace, but his special concern was with the health of the Nation.

During 1951, he was active in the enactment of legislation which gave more autonomy to the Dental Corps of the Army, Navy, and Air Force and which raised the rank of the dental chief of the Public Health Service to major general. He was chairman of the subcommittee which created the Army Nurse Corps.

Three years ago, in 1951, he was honored by the members of his profession by being named the dentist of the year. The citation accompanying the medal reads:

> For distinguished contributions to the welfare and progress of dentistry, particularly his service in protecting the best interests of the profession and public health through promoting beneficial legislation and discouraging harmful legislation while acting in the performance of his duties as Senator in the Congress of the United States.

I join in the tributes today to a man who has demonstrated all of the best qualities of citizenship in his home community, in his State, and in his Nation. He was an exemplary man, an able public servant, and a good friend.

I have lost a good and true friend. I mourn his loss. Mrs. Hendrickson joins me in offering sincerest condolences to his good wife and family.

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, I desire to associate myself with the tributes that have been paid by my colleagues to one of the most beloved Senators in this body, LESTER HUNT. He was a dedicated public servant, if I ever knew one.

I had the privilege of serving with him on the Committee on Armed Services, and I recall that time and time again he rendered most valuable services, and made most important and worthwhile suggestions with respect to pending legislation.

I was greatly impressed by the remarks made by the present Presiding Officer, the Senator from Mississippi [Mr. Stennis], who likewise served on the Committee on Armed Services with LESTER HUNT.

As one Member of the United States Senate, I wish to say that I admired Senator HUNT as a man and loved him as a friend, and I shall always revere his memory.

Mr. MONRONEY. Mr. President, one of the saddest experiences in the life of any Senator comes when dear friends and able public servants are lost to us through death.

The 83d session of the Congress has taken the extremely high toll of nine able and distinguished Senators, men whose services and whose deep dedication to public life can ill be spared from our councils. Nine such men—experienced, qualified, dedicated Senators—were lost through death in the session now closing. Their loss will be greatly felt as we begin our deliberations in the new session to open on January 3.

Among those whose services were lost through death were leaders of both parties, but whose services as great Americans we learned to respect throughout our daily service and friendly association with them during the years. Party divisions and political differences pale into insignificance, as compared to the great respect we learned to have for their individual positions and their viewpoints on what was best for all the people of our great Nation.

I speak of Senator Robert A. Taft, whose death cut short the able and dedicated leadership of his party in the Congress; of Senator Tobey, of New Hampshire; of Senator Griswold, of Nebraska; of Senator Hoey and Senator Smith of North Carolina; of Senator Butler, of Nebraska; of Senator Hunt, of Wyoming; of Senator Pat McCarran, of Nevada; and of Senator Maybank, of South Carolina. Here were men who sought to the utmost of their ability to serve well their Nation and its people and to render the greatest possible help to the people who sent them here as their Senators.

At this time, Mr. President, I wish to address myself to the great service rendered by Senator HUNT, of Wyoming. It was my great pleasure to have been privileged to serve with him on the Senate Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce, to have come to know him personally, to have had the great pleasure of being in his home State of Wyoming, there observing at firsthand his dedication to all the people of that great Western State and to everything that was of interest or importance in the daily lives of its citizens.

Late in the night, after certain meetings we had, I would see him greet the night watchman of a small town and ask him about his children, or greet the new cashier in a small coffeeshop, who had just moved into his State from North Dakota.

Senator HUNT loved people, and he loved the privilege of serving people. Throughout his entire legislative experience and his experience as Governor, his life was dedicated to his interest in human beings and in their cause and in the things that would help in the greatest degree the greatest number. He loved his home State, and it loved him. He loved the plains and mountains of Wyoming. As we rode together across hundreds of miles of that country, it was a great delight to have him describe with pleasure and pride the glories of the State he had adopted while he was a young man.

Mr. President, we who serve on the Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce will miss sorely the dedicated experience of Senator HUNT, who always was able to weigh the national interest against the partisan or special privilege that is evidenced so often in legislative matters which come before the Senate for determination. His knowledge of all phases of that great committee's jurisdiction and his determination, regardless of which interests sought to prevail, to strive endlessly for the cause of truth and right marked Senator HUNT's devotion to his duty.

On the Committee on Armed Services we knew the great contributions he made toward keeping this country strong by endeavoring to give us the very best possible national defense, to meet whatever emergency this great country of ours might face at any time. Those of us who knew him and loved him, who knew his sensitive nature and the beautiful home life he enjoyed, deeply regret his passing. We deeply regret that we did not know of his situation in time, perhaps, to give him a helping hand, which might have averted the tragedy which came into his life and into the life of the Nation with his passing.

I hope his death will cause us to dedicate ourselves, as Members of the Senate, no matter how busy we may be at the time with seemingly important tasks, to the alleviation of the great human conflicts which arise in the lives of men, and which destroy their ability to see clearly the path which lies ahead. By helping to raise the ethical standards of this great body we may prevent circumstances which might cause the loss of another such dedicated public servant as Senator HUNT.

Mr. CARLSON. Mr. President, it was my privilege to be rather closely associated with Senator LESTER HUNT, of Wyoming.

I first learned to know LESTER when he was Governor of the great State of Wyoming. At that time I happened to be

Governor of the State of Kansas. We attended four governors' conferences together, and we worked together on the committees. In 1948 he was selected as chairman of the National Governors' Conference.

In connection with legislative matters, he had an especial interest in those affecting education. He never lost an opportunity to advance the cause of the education of our youth.

He was also sincerely interested in the great reclamation projects which are so vital to the West.

Because of his keen intellect and brilliant mind he made valuable contributions to the work of the governors of the other States during the years when he was chairman of the National Conference of Governors, and also to the work of the various committees of the Senate on which he served. As I have said, it was my privilege to serve with him on some of them.

Senator HUNT was a close personal friend of mine. He was a great and patriotic American. He has left his mark not only on this body, but on our great Nation as a whole.

Mr. CASE. Mr. President, with respect to LESTER HUNT, I first met him when he was Governor of the State of Wyoming. I met him at a meeting in Sheridan, Wyo., when we were initiating the movement for the authorization of the Missouri River Basin program. At that time I found him intensely interested in water conservation, and, in fact, in every project which would make the resources of the great West available to the American people.

After I came to the Senate from the House of Representatives I met him in the Committee on Armed Services, and there I was impressed, as was the present occupant of the chair, the distinguished Senator from Mississippi [Mr. Stennis], by his unfailing devotion to what he considered to be the best interests of the United States. I recall occasions when certain public questions arose with respect to which a person with a demagogic approach might have voted dif-

ferently than he did. First of all, LESTER HUNT asked "What is good for the security of the United States?" Although he sat across the table from me, and across the aisle in this body, there was no partisanship in his approach to questions involving the national security of the United States.

He brought to the United States Senate the open-minded, fair-minded quality which we like to associate with great characters from the western area of the United States.

Mr. KNOWLAND. Mr. President, I should like to say a few words relative to our late colleague, Senator HUNT, of Wyoming. For some time I served with him on the Committee on Armed Services, before I transferred from that committee to the Committee on Foreign Relations. At that time I had occasions, both as a member of the full committee and as a member of the subcommittees of that committee, to work very closely with LESTER HUNT. I always found him to be a man who was deeply interested in legislation. He was not only in the fullest sense of the word a representative of the State of Wyoming, but, in the broad sense he was, as we are all expected to be, a Senator of the United States. He recognized the problems and the need for the solution of those problems of the people in each one of the 48 States and in the Nation as a whole. He had a deep interest in the security of the American people and in the need for an adequate national defense.

Senator HUNT had had an excellent background of public service. As has been previously mentioned, he had served as governor of his State. He came to the Senate with a wealth of experience, not only from having attended the Governors' Conferences, where the governors learned of the problems of the other States of the Union, but also as an intelligent American citizen he had an understanding of problems beyond the confines of his own State.

It was with great shock that we learned of his passing. All of us had felt that LESTER HUNT, even though he was retiring from the Senate, would have before him many years of

useful service to his country and to his State. It was with profound regret that we on this side of the aisle were apprised of the news of his death. I wish to join with the other Senators who have paid tribute to Senator HUNT's life and to his services to the people of the United States.

Mr. CLEMENTS. Mr. President, we know not what sadness—what heartbreak—may be around us.

The tragedy of that early Saturday morning of June 19 that took our friend and colleague, Senator LESTER CALLAWAY HUNT, from our midst struck without warning and thus came as a deeper and more terrible shock to all of us who knew and admired this man of broad mind, generous heart and, be it said, extreme sensitivity, leaving those of us who were closest to him not only deeply grieved over his tragic ending, but frustrated and stricken over realization of the torment he suffered and silently endured. On the previous Friday he and I had engaged in conversation here on the floor of this Chamber. Certainly I was regretful over his decision not to stand for reelection, but there was no sign of disturbance, no evidence of concern or worry of any kind on his part. We discussed many things, some bearing on the future when he no longer would be a Member of this body, but as the fateful event of the following morning revealed, he was talking in terms of the next day and I was thinking in terms of the next year.

Mr. President, I have since come across and found some solace in these lines:

> If we could see beyond today, as God can see
> If all the clouds could roll away, the shadows flee;
> If we could know beyond today, as God does know,
> Why dearest ones must pass away and tears must flow;
> If we could know why darkness leads to light,
> Why dreary days invariably grow bright;
> But still we know
> Some day life's hurts and wrongs will be made right—
> Faith tells us so.

My friendship with LESTER HUNT antedated our service together here in the Senate. We were contemporary governors of our respective States and it was with genuine gratification that I joined in the movement and rejoiced over his election as chairman of the Governors' Conference when the chief executives of the various States met in 1948 at Portsmouth, N. H. Likewise his splendid ability, diligence, and leadership were recognized here as the Senate committee memberships he held plainly attest.

The passing of a man of the sterling character and intellectual capacity of Senator HUNT is an immeasurable loss to his State, the United States Senate, and the entire Nation.

His tragic and untimely death surpasses our understanding, but sad, indeed, it is that only at the maximum toll could our beloved friend and colleague find surcease and release from the burdens, which certainly his sensitive soul had magnified beyond all reasonable proportions. Yet for the privilege of having known him and labored in the same sphere with him, we can be grateful and find solace, too, in the knowledge that his exceptionally fine and useful career of professional and public service in the State of Wyoming and for his State here in the United States Senate will stand as a perpetual memorial to Senator HUNT.

Mr. KEFAUVER. Mr. President, I wish to associate myself with the tributes paid by other Senators to the life and public service of three outstanding Members of the Senate, PAT MCCARRAN, HUGH BUTLER, and LESTER HUNT. Each one made a great contribution to the legislative enactments of this body.

I particularly had an opportunity of associating very closely with the distinguished Senator from Wyoming, LESTER HUNT. We came to the Senate at the same time. We served together on the Committee on Armed Services, the

Committee on the District of Columbia, and on the Select Committee Investigating the Problem of Racketeering in Interstate Commerce.

LESTER HUNT, as has been said, was one of the hardest working Members of the Senate. He was always willing to undertake any assignment given to him, and he always ably carried it out. He never tried to look for the easy road or the easy position. His only consideration was, What is best for the country?

He was a man of courage. He was always fair. He was thoughtful in his relationship with other Members of the Senate.

His family life was exemplary, and the companionship between him and Mrs. Hunt was ideal. This relationship was one of the sweet aspects of this fine man's nature. He lived for his family.

LESTER HUNT was an excellent example of what an all-around United States Senator should be. We miss him in the Senate. I am sure that his excellent efforts as a member of the committees on which he served and his endeavors to promote the welfare and progress of our country will long be remembered, and all of us will always appreciate his splendid public service.

WEDNESDAY, *January 26, 1955.*

Mr. WATKINS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that there be printed in the body of the Record a eulogy which I have prepared on the life and public service of Senator LESTER C. HUNT who died during the 83d Congress.

There being no objection, the eulogy was ordered to be printed in the Record, as follows:

Mr. President, Senator HUNT had the distinction of being one of the few dentists ever elected to serve in the United States Senate. From the practice of dentistry in his hometown of Lander, Wyo.,

he first responded to a deep-seated urge for public service by becoming a candidate and being elected to the Wyoming House of Representatives in 1932. From that time to his untimely death in 1954, he was active in public affairs in the State of Wyoming and in the United States Senate, to which he was elected in 1948. He also was highly regarded in his profession, being a Fellow in the American College of Dentists.

Although Senator HUNT was in his first term in the Senate when death occurred, he was well known from the start to most of us from the Western States. He had served as secretary of state for Wyoming from 1934 to 1942, and as Governor of the Cowboy State from 1942 to 1948.

Because our respective States have a common boundary and similar economic problems, I had the pleasure of working with Senator Hunt on many problems of mutual interest. I was always favorably impressed with the competence and sincere devotion to duty displayed by Senator HUNT on those occasions, and I am gratified to recall that our relations here in Congress were always pleasant, even though the political aisle had technically separated us.

My last joint project with Senator HUNT was to provide active support to a bill that he had introduced to provide protection to our domestic coal industry. Because of his wide background in public affairs, he had a rich source of experience to draw upon, and he could always be counted on to be well informed and in support of measures contributing to the developing of the Mountain West.

His passing is deeply regretted by his many friends in the Senate, and his death is a heavy loss to the State of Wyoming.

Proceedings
in the
House of Representatives

Proceedings in the House

MONDAY, *June 21, 1954.*

The Chaplain, Rev. Bernard Braskamp, D. D., offered the following prayer:

O Thou who art the only source of wisdom and power that can make and keep us strong and courageous in character and conduct, may we daily bring our life into harmony with the enduring principles of truth and righteousness.

Inspire us with a sincere desire to cultivate a growing interest and capacity for the nobler and more magnanimous qualities of mind and heart.

We penitently confess that we are continually consulting and following our own personal inclinations in preference to Thy divine will and purpose.

May we never interpret and look upon our high vocation merely as a way of making a living but as a glorious opportunity to minister to the welfare of humanity and lift it into higher levels of thought and feeling.

We thank Thee for Thy servant who now dwells with Thee in eternal blessedness. Thou has opened unto him the gateway to a larger service and received him into Thy holy presence. Grant unto the members of his bereaved family the consolations of Thy grace.

Hear us in Christ's name. Amen.

A message from the Senate by Mr. Carrell, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate had adopted the following resolution (S. Res. 263):

Resolved, That the Senate has heard with profound sorrow and deep regret the announcement of the death of Hon. LESTER C. HUNT, late a Senator from the State of Wyoming.

Resolved, That the President of the Senate appoint a committee, of which he shall be a member, to attend the funeral of the deceased Senator.

Resolved, That the Secretary communicate these resolutions to the House of Representatives and transmit a copy thereof to the family of the deceased.

Resolved, That, as a further mark of respect to the memory of the deceased, the Senate do now adjourn.

Mr. RAYBURN. Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the gentleman from Wyoming [Mr. Harrison], I assume the duty of announcing to the House the passing of LESTER HUNT, late a Senator from the State of Wyoming. LESTER HUNT had a great record, not only in his State politics but in national politics. In every responsibility that was placed upon his shoulders, he lived up to the expectation of his friends.

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members who desire to may extend their remarks on the life and character of LESTER HUNT at this point in the Record.

The SPEAKER. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

Mr. RAYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I offer a resolution (H. Res. 592).

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

Resolved, That the House has heard with profound sorrow of the death of Hon. LESTER C. HUNT, a Senator of the United States from the State of Wyoming.

Resolved, That the Clerk communicate these resolutions to the Senate and transmit a copy thereof to the family of the deceased Senator.

Resolved, That a committee of five Members be appointd on the part of the House to join the committee appointed on the part of the Senate to attend the funeral.

The resolution was agreed to.

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to the resolution, the Chair appoints the following Members of the funeral committee: Messrs. Harrison of Wyoming, D'Ewart, Aspinall, Lovre, and Rogers of Colorado.

Mr. ARENDS. Mr. Speaker, as a further mark of respect to the memory of the deceased, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 1 o'clock and 25 minutes p. m.) the House adjourned until tomorrow, Tuesday, June 22, 1954, at 12 o'clock noon.

Memorial Tributes
to
Lester Callaway Hunt

Memorial Tributes

Remarks by Senator Johnson

Of Colorado

Mr. JOHNSON of Colorado. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the Appendix of the Record an editorial published in the Thermopolis Independent-Record, of June 17, 1954. The editorial makes laudatory references to our late colleague, Senator LESTER HUNT, of Wyoming. Although I agree with the statements contained in the editorial, I wish to point out that Senator HUNT was also an extremely able Senator for the United States as a whole.

There being no objection, the editorial was ordered to be printed in the Record, as follows:

SENATOR HUNT HAS BEEN A "WYOMING SENATOR"

Retiring United States Senator LESTER C. HUNT, Democrat, of Wyoming, has been one of less than 1,600 (sixteen hundred, not thousand) American citizens to have enjoyed sovereign United States senatorial prerogative. The average tenure of all these some 1,580 United States Senators has been approximately 7 years, or 1 year more than a full term of 6 years. Recent observers of United States Senate history may think that because of the McCarthy-Army hearings, etc., the Senate is becoming more hectic. But before the Civil War, the Senate frequently used its power to expel and unseat its own Members, just about as hectic a procedure as the Senate is capable.

Nine United States Senators have been elected for 6 terms or more, and Wyoming's United States Senator Francis E. Warren was in fact elected 7 times (although not all for full 6-year terms), the record, and in fact still holds the record for total length of service in the Senate, namely 37½ years.

The Senate of the United States is the only Federal instrumentality which cannot be changed by the usual amendment procedure. It is even doubtful if an amendment changing the

amendment procedure to change the Senate would be constitutional. The Romans used as their insigne the initials SPQR, which were the initials for, in translation, the Senate and the Roman people. Because of the fact that the Senate of the United States is in effect our one truly permanent Federal body, come any eventuality, we could in fact mimic the ancient Romans and hence say, "the Senate and the American people."

Due to its power to veto Presidential nominations of all high Federal officials in the executive and judicial branches, due to power to ratify treaties (treaties, which become the supreme law of the land, made under the authority of the United States, and not necessarily in pursuance of the Constitution, a lesser injunction in effect for domestic laws, State and Federal), and due to the fact that the Senate can convict (upon two-thirds of those voting, a quorum being present) any Federal official impeached or indicted by the United States House of Representatives, and that since the United States Supreme Court decided the little noticed but phenomenal Ritter case in 1937, the Senate is not required to vote on any specific charge brought by the House. The House can say, in effect, "We impeach so-and-so," and if the Senate concurs by the constitutional majority, said so-and-so is out. All this in effect makes the Federal Government a senatorial government, and not absolutely, in a showdown, a three-branch government.

We think of all these things now with the retirement of our Wyoming Senator HUNT. We mean that—that he has been a Wyoming Senator, and not a Potomac Senator, or a Washington bureaucracy Senator. Senator HUNT has, at crucial times, supported the best interests of Wyoming against Democratic party line. We hope any and all United States Senators from Wyoming will always vote for Wyoming against any party line, Democratic, Republican, or what have you.

Remarks by Senator Kefauver

Of Tennessee

Mr. KEFAUVER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to include in the Appendix of the Record a statement prepared by me regarding the death of Senator LESTER C. HUNT.

There being no objection, the statement was ordered to be printed in the Record, as follows:

Mr. President, as we come to the close of this 2d session of the 83d Congress, I want to say that I am saddened by the absence here of my good friend and colleague, LESTER HUNT.

He was a distinguished governor of a great State before representing that State in the Senate of the United States. We served together on the Judiciary Committee and we served together, during many trying days, as members of the Senate Crime Committee.

LESTER HUNT was a devoted servant of the people, not only of his own State, but also of the United States. We will miss him greatly in the years ahead. America has suffered a loss in his passing.

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